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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/30 of 6 December 1995, took note of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/50/230) and decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects; and requested the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the Assembly at its fifty-first session. The members and observers of the Special Committee are listed in annexes I and II.

2. At its 132nd meeting, on 1 April 1996, the Committee elected the following representatives as the Committee's officers for a term of office of one year: Ambassador Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria), Chairman; Ambassador Emilio J. Cárdenas (Argentina), Ambassador David Karsgaard (Canada), Mr. Yukinari Hirose (Japan) and Mr. Zbigniew Matuszewski (Poland), Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Abderahman S. Abderahman (Egypt), Rapporteur.

3. The Committee also discussed its organization of work and decided to establish an open-ended working group, to be chaired by Canada, to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/30.

4. The general debate was followed by discussions in the informal open-ended Working Group, which met between 9 and 26 April. The Working Group was briefed

* A/51/50.

by and exchanged views with the Secretariat on the issues of lessons learned, structure and staffing of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, civilian police, cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements and agencies, training, financing and rapid deployment capabilities including standby arrangements and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services entitled Evaluation of Peace-keeping Operations: Termination Phase. The Special Committee was also briefed by the Joint Inspection Unit on its report on the military component of United Nations peace-keeping operations (A/50/576).

II. GENERAL DEBATE AND WORKING GROUP CONSIDERATIONS

5. At its 132nd to 136th meetings, held on 1, 2 and 3 April, the Special Committee held a general debate on the matters before it.

6. At the 132nd meeting, Mr. Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, noted changes that had taken place in the peace-keeping landscape over the past year, including the termination of a number of operations. Funding for the Department of Peace-keeping Operations was likely to be reduced, but the Secretary-General's current proposals to the General Assembly, if adopted, would enable the Department to preserve its structural integrity in order to maintain the Organization's capacity to manage existing operations effectively and, if necessary, to launch new operations.

7. Mr. Annan reviewed several of the reforms undertaken within the Secretariat to strengthen the Organization's peace-keeping capabilities, including the creation of a Mission Planning Service within the Department of Peace-keeping Operations to design plans for multidimensional operations in coordination with other Departments; the establishment of a Situation Centre to maintain 24-hour contact with United Nations personnel around the world; the formation of a Policy and Analysis Unit and a Lessons Learned Unit to examine policy questions relating to peace-keeping and to distil the lessons of past experiences; the establishment of a Training Unit to promote standardized peace-keeping training among troop contributors; and the creation of a Civilian Police Unit to advise on operational police matters. In addition, he noted the establishment of new procedures for consultations among the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat.

8. The debate in the Committee was characterized by a substantive and constructive exchange of views on general and specific aspects of peace-keeping operations. Many delegations underscored the importance of defining precise and feasible objectives for peace-keeping operations and of ensuring that sufficient resources were made available for the successful implementation of mandates. The view was expressed that the continued existence of peace-keeping operations depended entirely on the resolution of the underlying political problem that had caused the conflict situation. Several delegations believed that peace-keeping and enforcement tasks should not be mixed in the mandate of a United Nations operation and concurred with the view of the Secretary-General that peace-keeping operations should strictly observe the principles of impartiality, consent of the parties, non-interference in domestic affairs and non-use of force except in self-defence. Some delegations concurred with the observation of the Secretary-General in the Supplement to an Agenda for Peace (A/50/60-

S/1995/1) that peace-keeping and peace-enforcement were not adjacent points on a continuum. Those delegations also drew attention to the conclusion contained in the study produced by the Lessons Learned Unit on the United Nations Operation in Somalia to the effect that a peace-keeping operation could not effectively co-exist with peace-enforcement action. The view was also expressed that greater clarity in rules of engagement was needed before troops were committed to an operation. The view was expressed that a declaration of principles for United Nations peace-keeping should be elaborated and that the Secretary-General should consider the usefulness of elaborating a comprehensive codification of United Nations peace-keeping principles.

9. Many delegations welcomed the new process for consultations between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat announced in the 28 March 1996 statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/1996/13). Several delegations maintained that the Presidential statement had noted that the new arrangements were not exhaustive and that the Council should stand ready to consider additional measures to enhance those arrangements further in the light of experience. While several delegations stressed the need to institutionalize the consultative arrangements, others underscored the importance of benefiting as much as possible from the significant improvements that the new arrangements provided. Several delegations expressed the view that troop contributors had a legitimate right to be consulted by the Council.

10. Many delegations expressed deep concern over the financial situation of the United Nations and the failure of some Member States to pay their assessed contributions to the Organization. Some delegations maintained that the permanent members of the Security Council had a special responsibility to bear peace-keeping expenditures. Several stated that all Member States should pay their contributions in full, on time and without conditions. The view was also expressed that the system of apportioning expenses for peace-keeping operations among Member States should be revised.

11. Many delegations urged the Secretariat to speed the process of reimbursing Member States for their contributions of personnel and equipment to peace-keeping operations. Some delegations stated that developing countries should be given priority in the delivery of reimbursements, while others maintained that all Member States should have equal access to reimbursements. Many delegations called for the establishment of a uniform scale of death and disability compensation for United Nations personnel, while others noted that the question of any possible revisions to the current arrangements for death and disability was still under consideration in the competent bodies of the General Assembly.

12. Many delegations were concerned that reductions in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations might weaken the Organization's capacity to manage existing and future peace-keeping operations, and they noted the assurances of the Under-Secretary-General that the structural integrity of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations would be preserved with a view to maintaining a core capacity within the Department to meet the needs of peace-keeping. Many delegations also stated that the funding of peace-keeping operations should not be at the expense of development activities.

13. Several delegations noted with appreciation the work of the Lessons Learned Unit of the Department and spoke in favour of providing the Unit with a more regular and predictable source of funding.

14. Several delegations expressed concern over the staffing of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, suggesting that its increased reliance on personnel loaned by Member States had created an imbalanced situation where developing States were insufficiently represented. Several delegations called for a thorough review of the use of seconded and loaned personnel and maintained that the Department should pay greater heed to Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter, which emphasize, among other things, the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. Many delegations indicated their preference that all staff positions in the Department be funded directly by the United Nations. The view was also expressed that staff should be recruited on the basis of contributions and payments to United Nations budgets. In addition, some delegations believed that delays in compensation to troop-contributing States had resulted in a situation where those States were, in effect, subsidizing United Nations peace-keeping operations.

15. Many delegations emphasized the importance of avoiding delays in the deployment of peace-keeping operations once their mandates had been approved by the Security Council. To that end, many delegations spoke in favour of strengthening the system of standby arrangements and improving the pre-planning of operations within the Secretariat, and some welcomed the proposal for a multinational high-readiness brigade. Many delegations supported ongoing efforts to establish a rapidly deployable operational headquarters team in the Secretariat, which would help plan future peace-keeping operations and form the nucleus of a field headquarters for new operations. Some delegations stated that the goal of more rapid deployment should not supplant the need to establish clear mandates and political agreement on the purposes of an operation. Many suggested that the idea of a rapid reaction force should be examined in greater detail owing to the complex legal, financial, political and practical issues it raised and some delegations suggested that the idea of rapid deployment should be examined in the same way. Some delegations were of the view that, whereas the timely deployment of troops and equipment was a concept applicable to peace-keeping operations in general, rapid reaction related to a broader category of issues, among them the perceived need for a rapid response to complex emergencies requiring the immediate presence of peace-keeping troops.

16. Several delegations emphasized the importance of enhancing coordination between Secretariat departments involved in peace-keeping, and between the Secretariat and the specialized agencies of the United Nations, as well as with non-governmental organizations active in mission areas. Many delegations also called for greater cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations within the framework of Chapter VIII of the Charter. Many delegations welcomed the four regional training workshops held by the Department of Peace-keeping Operations since 1995 and underlined the need for greater cooperation among Member States within the same region in the field of peace-keeping.

17. Several delegations stressed the importance of unity of command and control of United Nations peace-keeping operations, and expressed the view that all

field operations authorized by the United Nations should be led and conducted by the United Nations. Some delegations were of the view that operations authorized under Chapter VII of the Charter could be led and conducted by regional organizations or multinational coalitions rather than the United Nations. Many delegations recalled that Chapter VIII of the Charter permits regional arrangements and agencies to undertake enforcement actions only under the authority of the Security Council.

18. Some delegations stressed the need to ensure the unity of command of peace-keeping operations at all times and at all levels. They further stressed that, as a matter of principle, the overall political direction and control of United Nations-mandated peace-keeping operations devolved upon the Security Council. They also recalled that operational control of such operations was the responsibility of the Secretary-General, acting through his special representative and the force commander. They further considered that, in the event the Security Council decided on other arrangements regarding operational control of a United Nations-mandated operation in the future, it should be understood as a delegation of authority that would not in any way impinge upon or derogate from its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

19. Several delegations expressed their view that sufficient administrative and financial authority should be delegated to the special representative of the Secretary-General, the force commander or the head of mission, to ensure the effective management of peace-keeping missions. Some delegations also called for a further streamlining of United Nations procurement procedures to facilitate the smooth functioning of operations. The view was expressed that in order to meet the complex and challenging operational mechanism, the force commander, the deputy force commander and other staff appointments must be decided at an early stage, with the concurrence of the concerned parties, and that they should determine the operational aims and objectives as well as supervise the deployment of troops.

20. Many delegations considered the establishment of the United Nations logistics base at Brindisi a constructive step towards improving the Organization's management of peace-keeping matériel. They welcomed the creation of a new depot for medical supplies in Oslo, which would be established and operated on a no-cost basis for the United Nations during the first five years. It was also suggested that the Secretary-General should look into the possibility of establishing additional depots, perhaps on a regional basis. Several delegations stated that those depots and their contents should be adequately funded and maintained. Some delegations saw a need for the identification of a logistics concept that could ensure the cost-effective handling of equipment and matériel by the United Nations.

21. Many delegations stressed the importance of adequate training of peace-keeping personnel, as well as the standardization of national peace-keeping training programmes. Several delegations welcomed in particular the efforts of the Organization's training assistance teams in working with Member States to develop national training programmes and national instructors for peace-keeping operations. Many delegations called for a strengthening of links between the Secretariat and national peace-keeping training institutions, and some

delegations expressed their view that improved coordination in the training of civilian and military peace-keeping personnel was needed. Some delegations also spoke in favour of greater pre-mission training for field headquarters staff.

22. Several delegations noted the growing importance of civilian police in United Nations operations and expressed the view that the Organization should further strengthen its ability to plan for, deploy and manage the civilian police component of peace-keeping operations, in part by ensuring that civilian police officers had the necessary experience and skills before they were deployed on United Nations operations. The view was also expressed that civilian police officers should be geographically and culturally suited to the local population in conflict areas.

23. Many delegations encouraged the Secretary-General to complete the elaboration of a code of conduct for United Nations peace-keeping personnel.

24. Several delegations expressed the view that an effective public information capacity was a requirement of successful peace-keeping, that the Organization should ensure that local populations were aware of the nature and purpose of United Nations operations. They considered that the public information component of a peace-keeping operation should be developed in close coordination with the operation's field headquarters and treated as an integral part of the overall mission.

25. Several delegations called for the enhancement of the Organization's early warning and preventive diplomacy capabilities, and emphasized the importance of ensuring the smooth termination of peace-keeping operations and the need to ensure a smoother transition from peace-keeping to peace-building in order to prevent the re-emergence of conflicts. In view of the need for a more integrated approach towards peace-keeping and peace-building, several delegations expressed the opinion that the Special Committee, in its proposals, recommendations and conclusions, should be in a position to make a positive reference to this aspect and to the ongoing work in the related Sub-Group on Post-Conflict Peace-building of the Informal Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Peace.

26. Some delegations felt that peace-keeping should be understood as part of a broader framework for the maintenance of international peace and security. In their view, that framework must include measures designed to address the root causes of conflict. They stressed that there could be no lasting peace and no solid basis for security unless an attempt was made to resolve the perennial problems of poverty and inequality, which often erupted in violence.

27. Several delegations encouraged the Secretariat to work towards enhancing the safety and security of United Nations peace-keeping personnel. The view was also expressed that snipers and mines pose a particular danger to those personnel. Several delegations called on Member States to ratify the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/59 of 9 December 1994.

28. Many delegations favoured expanding the membership of the Special Committee. Some expressed the position that the Committee should be open-ended,

while others suggested a more limited expansion. While not opposing the recommendation on expansion found in Section II of the present report, one delegation wished to reiterate that its position in favour of an open-ended Special Committee was based on the principles of universality, equality, transparency and democracy, which lay at the very foundation of the United Nations.

III. PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

A. Introduction

29. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations recognizes the important role played by peace-keeping operations in maintaining international peace and security. It draws attention in this regard to the debate at the Special Commemorative Meeting of the General Assembly on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations and to the Declaration adopted at that meeting (resolution 50/6 of 24 October 1995).

30. The Special Committee notes that it conducted its comprehensive review of peace-keeping operations in the context of a recent decrease in the establishment of new operations and a decline in the number of peace-keepers deployed. It observes that these developments result from a number of factors. The Special Committee considers it essential for the United Nations to be able to respond to threats to international peace and security, including through mounting future peace-keeping operations when necessary.

31. The Special Committee further observes that these developments provide an opportunity for the Organization to put the Department of Peace-keeping Operations on a more stable footing, to enhance its efficiency, to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to respond to relevant lessons learned from recent experience. In this connection it emphasizes that account should be taken of the fact that some peace-keeping operations are mandated to perform a variety of tasks.

32. The Special Committee believes that while peace-keeping is one of the key instruments available to the United Nations to resolve conflicts and to maintain international peace and security, it is, however, not a preferred method of containing conflicts but is used to prevent conflict situations from escalating while ways to resolve the conflict peacefully are being pursued. Every effort should therefore be made to seek the early resolution of conflicts. The Special Committee attaches great importance to the prevention of conflicts, in part so as to avoid the need for new peace-keeping operations, and to the pacific settlement of disputes by the parties concerned through negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter. The Special Committee believes that the United Nations can and should explore ways to do more in this regard. It notes that the use of preventive deployment in a particular case is a factor contributing to the maintenance of peace and security.

33. The Special Committee takes note of the ongoing work of the Informal Open-ended Working Group on An Agenda for Peace on the issues of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, sanctions, coordination and post-conflict peace-building.

34. The Special Committee stresses the importance of the consistent application of the principles and standards it has set forth for the establishment and conduct of peace-keeping operations, and also emphasizes the need to continue to consider those principles, as well as peace-keeping definitions, in a systematic fashion and in the light of the lessons learned from peace-keeping operations.

B. Guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates

35. The Special Committee stresses that peace-keeping operations should strictly observe the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It emphasizes that respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State is crucial to common efforts, including peace-keeping operations, to promote international peace and security.

36. The Special Committee also emphasizes that all the provisions of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter should be fully observed in the management and conduct of peace-keeping operations.

37. The Special Committee believes that respect for basic principles of peace-keeping, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence, are essential to its success.

38. The Special Committee stresses the importance of peace-keeping operations being provided with clearly defined mandates, objectives, command structures and secure financing in support of efforts to achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts.

39. The Special Committee also stresses the importance of ensuring that, in the formulation and implementation of peace-keeping mandates, there be congruence between mandates, resources and objectives. It emphasizes that, in cases where an existing peace-keeping operation is given additional mandates, the resources necessary for the implementation of those mandates should also be made available to the peace-keeping operation.

40. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure the unity of command of United Nations peace-keeping operations. It recalls that the overall political direction and control of United Nations-mandated peace-keeping operations devolves upon the Security Council. It also recalls that the execution of United Nations peace-keeping is the responsibility of the Secretary-General.

41. The Special Committee emphasizes that full consideration should be given to all offers made by Member States to participate in peace-keeping operations.

C. Consultation

42. The Special Committee, stressing that consultations between troop contributors and the Security Council are essential, welcomes the arrangements for consultation and exchange of information with troop-contributing countries as set out in the statement of the President of the Security Council on 28 March 1996 (S/PRST/1996/13), noting that those procedures strengthen the arrangements set out in the statement of the President of the Security Council on 4 November 1994 (S/PRST/1994/62). It commends those Member States which took the initiative that resulted in the statement of 28 March 1996, as well as the Security Council for having held open debates on consultations and on other peace-keeping issues, and encourages the Council to continue that practice.

43. The Special Committee notes in particular the statement that the President of the Security Council will chair consultations with troop contributors and will report to the Council on the views expressed by troop contributors at each meeting. It also welcomes the statement that those meetings will be held as soon as practicable and in good time before the Council takes decisions on the existing mandate of an operation, as well as the statement that, when the Council considers establishing a new peace-keeping operation, meetings will be held with any prospective troop contributors who have already been approached by the Secretariat. It encourages both the Security Council and troop-contributing countries to make full use of the new procedures.

44. The Special Committee further welcomes the President's statement that the arrangements described in the 28 March statement are not exhaustive and will be kept under review, and that the Council stands ready to consider further measures and new mechanisms in the light of experience. It notes that the arrangements do not preclude consultations in a variety of forms, including, as appropriate, with other countries especially affected, for example, countries from the region concerned.

D. Enhancing the capacity of the United Nations for peace-keeping

1. Planning, organization and effectiveness

45. The Special Committee encourages the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to improve the structure and capacity for successfully planning and managing peace-keeping operations, both at Headquarters and in the field, bearing in mind the need to give due regard, inter alia, to the principle of equitable geographical representation, and equitable gender representation as provided for in General Assembly resolution 49/167 of 23 December 1994.

46. The Special Committee welcomes the progress that has been made in implementing the recommendations in its report (A/50/230). It notes the Secretariat's view that recent reductions in the resources allocated would affect the functioning of some units of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations but would not undermine its structural integrity.

47. The Special Committee notes the growing imbalance within the Department of Peace-keeping Operations between posts financed from the regular budget and the

support account for peace-keeping, and the number of military officers on loan. It further notes that the use of loaned personnel should be temporary and urges the Secretary-General and the competent bodies of the General Assembly to take steps to correct this imbalance by providing for United Nations financing of posts at present occupied by officers on loan and by recruitment for those posts in accordance with established procedures. In this regard it stresses the view that the planning function of the Department's activities should receive regular and predictable financing. The Special Committee notes the significant work accomplished by personnel provided by some Member States on loan to the Organization, including in specialized areas essential to support of peace-keeping operations. It requests the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure that the recruitment and use of loaned personnel is consistent with the requirements of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter, including that due regard be paid to wide geographical representation.

48. The Special Committee recalls that, in its resolution 48/226 C of 29 July 1994, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a detailed report on various aspects related to the provision of personnel by Member States on loan to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. The Special Committee intends to address the issues raised by this question once the Secretary-General has presented his report as called for by the Assembly.

49. The Special Committee notes that, in the past, the Department has published various guidelines for the provision of military observers, civilian police and military contingents for peace-keeping operations. In this regard, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to provide similar guidelines for the provision of specialists.

50. The Special Committee notes with appreciation that the Lessons Learned Unit of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations has embarked upon a work programme and undertaken important work. In view of the importance of the Unit, the Special Committee urges the Secretary-General to seek regular, predictable financing for the Unit and to keep the Special Committee informed of its activities. The Special Committee considers it important that the work of the Unit be distributed to Member States and to the Special Committee for its consideration. In this connection the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to provide the already completed studies of the Lessons Learned Unit in all the official languages of the United Nations as soon as possible and in future to provide its studies in all the official languages in a timely fashion.

51. The Special Committee stresses again the need further to enhance, as necessary, cooperation between peace-keeping operations and other related United Nations activities and requests the Secretary-General to continue to look into ways and means of ensuring cooperation with other agencies of the United Nations system. The Special Committee calls on the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to provide a more coordinated approach between the two units of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Peace-keeping Operations responsible for demining operations under United Nations auspices and involved in coordination with non-United Nations demining agencies, so as to avoid duplication of effort.

52. The Special Committee notes that the establishment of an adequate inventory and asset control system is crucial to the effective logistic support of peace-keeping operations and welcomes the Secretary-General's intention to implement such a system. It also encourages the Secretariat to ensure cost-effective and viable handling of United Nations peace-keeping equipment and matériel.

53. The Special Committee underlines the importance of efficient, responsive and transparent procurement procedures for peace-keeping operations and, in particular, the need to document adequately in writing, the reasons for seeking exceptions from the rule of open, international competitive bidding, bearing in mind the importance to do so without unnecessary bureaucratic procedures and delays.

54. The Special Committee reaffirms the importance of an effective public information capacity, appropriate to the size of the operation, as an integral part of peace-keeping operations, and addressed primarily to the local population in order to spread awareness of the nature and purposes of the operation.

2. Safety and security

55. The Special Committee expresses its grave concern at all attacks and acts of violence against United Nations peace-keeping and associated personnel. It welcomes the adoption of General Assembly resolution 49/59 on this question and on measures to ensure that those responsible for such attacks are brought to justice. It notes that there is a growing number of signatories to the Convention annexed to that resolution and calls upon Member States that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention so as to ensure its early entry into force.

56. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to intensify further its efforts to provide an adequate level of protection and safety for peace-keepers and to consider measures that could be taken to prevent attacks of all kinds, including those by snipers, against both United Nations personnel and civilians. It emphasizes that safety and security constitute integral elements of the planning of peace-keeping operations.

3. Training

57. The Special Committee, while reaffirming that the training of personnel for peace-keeping operations is essentially the responsibility of Member States, affirms that the United Nations has an important role to play in coordinating such training activity, in establishing basic guidelines and performance standards and in providing advisory services and descriptive materials.

58. The Special Committee welcomes the progress that has been made in implementing the recommendations in its report (A/50/230), in particular the increased deployment of training assistance teams and instructors, and the training of both field and Headquarters personnel. The Special Committee encourages the Secretary-General to expand further the use of training

assistance teams and to continue holding regional training workshops and developing regional pools of instructors.

59. The Special Committee encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to share training information among national and regional training institutions and the Secretariat. The Special Committee welcomes the development of peace-keeping training modules for national staff colleges as well as for the United Nations staff college, and requests the Secretary-General to examine the feasibility of devising standardized peace-keeping training modules for senior personnel.

60. The Special Committee takes note of the progress made in elaborating a code of conduct for United Nations peace-keeping personnel, consistent with applicable international humanitarian law, and urges its early completion.

61. The Special Committee stresses the importance for all Member States to derive the utmost benefit from the Secretariat's work in the area of training and urges the Secretariat to respect the principle of multilingualism in all its training activities, notably those listed above. It further requests that, where practicable, the linguistic composition of peace-keeping operations be taken into account in the provision of manuals and handbooks for field personnel in languages other than the official languages of the United Nations.

4. Civilian police

62. The Special Committee notes that the use of civilian police in United Nations peace-keeping operations continues to increase, welcomes the progress made in the past year to strengthen the Civilian Police Unit within the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and urges the Secretary-General to strengthen the Unit further. The Committee also welcomes the development of educational materials to assist Member States in training civilian police and the use of selection assistance teams to assist in selecting civilian police for duty in peace-keeping operations.

63. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to intensify its efforts to identify particular police skills requirements for peace-keeping operations, to coordinate national civilian training programmes for peace-keeping operations and to take differences in national rank levels into account in its operational planning. It underscores in this connection that all civilian police involved in United Nations operations should have the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to perform their duties effectively.

64. The Special Committee encourages Member States to include police elements among those units they identify in standby arrangements with the United Nations, including such information as type of police corps, rank and training. It also welcomes the Secretariat's intention to include a civilian police staff element in its development of a rapidly deployable headquarters capacity.

65. The Special Committee recommends that particular attention should be given in status-of-forces agreements with host countries to the safety and security of civilian police officers.

5. Rapid deployment and standby arrangements

66. The Special Committee reiterates its concern over the length of time taken to deploy peace-keeping operations after the establishment of mandates by the Security Council. It urges the Secretariat to continue to improve the Organization's ability to deploy a peace-keeping operation quickly when the situation so requires.

67. In this regard, the Special Committee welcomes the Secretariat's efforts to develop further and improve the system of standby arrangements, and encourages it to continue to brief Member States periodically on developments. The Special Committee takes note of the lack of certain specialized units in standby arrangements and invites Member States to consider participating in such areas as headquarters support, sea/airlift provision, communications personnel, engineers, logistics and medical staff.

68. The Special Committee encourages Member States to provide information on the period of time required for the deployment of standby forces.

69. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to keep Member States informed with regard to the development and composition of a rapidly deployable headquarters team, following the recommendation made in its report (A/50/230).

70. The Special Committee notes that, owing to their own resource constraints, some troop contributors from the developing world are not always in a position to equip their troops adequately for peace-keeping operations, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General consider ways and means to address the problem. In this regard the Special Committee welcomes the creation of partnerships between Governments that require equipment and those willing to provide it.

6. Finances

71. The Special Committee is of the view that adequate financial resources and support are crucial to the effectiveness of United Nations peace-keeping operations and reaffirms that the expenses of peace-keeping operations are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The Special Committee recalls the fact that in order to meet the expenditures of peace-keeping operations a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations. In this context, the Special Committee takes into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions to peace-keeping operations and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute in this regard, and it bears in mind the special responsibility of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963.

72. The Special Committee stresses that Member States' contributions must be paid in full and on time so as not to undermine the effectiveness of United

Nations peace-keeping operations, and reaffirms the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly.

73. The Special Committee believes that further reforms are necessary to ensure that the Department of Peace-keeping Operations has a predictable and stable financial base. It welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General and the action taken by the General Assembly to reform the budgetary procedures and methods of managing and providing logistic support for peace-keeping operations. The Special Committee welcomes in particular General Assembly resolution 50/222 of 11 April 1996 reforming the methodology and procedures for determining reimbursements to troop-contributing countries for contingent-owned equipment. It urges the Secretariat to implement in full all the recommendations approved by the General Assembly in that regard in resolution 50/222 and to inform Member States by 30 May 1996 of the new procedures as called for in that resolution.

74. The Special Committee expresses concern over protracted delays in the reimbursement of troop contributors, including delays in the processing of claims for troops and equipment provided by Member States to operations whose mandates have been completed. It urges the Secretary-General to accord high priority to the early settlement of all pending claims and to ensure that all reimbursement takes place in a timely fashion, inter alia, through the provision of an adequate level of personnel to those units of the Secretariat dealing with these issues.

75. The Special Committee notes the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/906) on possible revisions to the current arrangements for death and disability benefits and encourages the competent bodies of the General Assembly to arrive at an early decision on this matter. It welcomes Assembly resolution 50/223 of 11 April 1996, in which it reaffirms the principles outlined in resolution 49/233 and requests the Secretary-General to examine the possibility of a commercial insurance scheme to cover all troops and to report to the Assembly thereon by 15 July 1996.

76. Further to paragraph 87 of its report (A/50/230), the Special Committee encourages the competent bodies of the General Assembly to consider next steps in improving the mechanisms for the start-up financing of new operations, in particular the issue of the partial assessment of the commitment authority granted by the Assembly for the start-up or expansion of new peace-keeping operations.

77. The Special Committee notes the proposal of the Secretary-General to regularize the financing of the logistics base at Brindisi and requests the competent bodies of the General Assembly to examine this proposal further.

7. Cooperation with regional arrangements

78. Bearing in mind the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee reaffirms the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies can make in this regard, in

accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, including, where appropriate, to peace-keeping.

79. The Special Committee encourages the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements, within their respective mandates, scope and composition, to enhance the capabilities of the international community in the maintenance of international peace and security, appreciates the possibility of practical realization of such cooperation at the regional and subregional level and also encourages the Secretary-General to take concrete steps to that end. The Committee notes in this context the framework for cooperation between the Secretariat and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and recalls the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security (resolution 49/57, annex).

80. The Special Committee also recognizes the importance of the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and the need to enhance the mechanisms for such cooperation. In this context it notes the report of the Secretary-General on improving preparedness for conflict prevention and peace-keeping in Africa (A/50/711-S/1995/911), and the recommendations contained therein, which should be considered further in consultation with OAU.

81. The Special Committee also encourages the Secretary-General to continue to work, in consultation with OAU and its member States, to reinforce African capacity to participate in peace-keeping, notably through technical assistance and the training of personnel, logistical support and mobilization of financial assistance.

82. The Special Committee encourages the Secretary-General to continue his meetings on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations and arrangements and other intergovernmental organizations, to continue to discuss cooperation in the field of peace-keeping in such meetings and to report on those meetings to Member States.

E. Membership of the Special Committee

83. The Special Committee notes the wide support for expanding the membership of the Committee, bearing in mind the need to enhance its effectiveness and preserve its efficiency and considering the contribution that all members of the Organization make to peace-keeping.

84. The Special Committee recommends that the membership of the Special Committee be expanded and that those Member States which are past or present personnel contributors to United Nations peace-keeping operations and those which are observers at the 1996 session of the Special Committee should, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Committee, become members at its 1997 session.

85. The Special Committee further recommends that those Member States which become personnel contributors to United Nations peace-keeping operations in years to come or in the future participate in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers should, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Committee, become members at the following session of the Committee.

ANNEX I

Composition of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965 and 43/59 B of 6 December 1988, the Special Committee is composed of the following Member States: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. a/

Notes

a/ General Assembly resolution 47/1 applies.

ANNEX II

List of observers

The Committee received requests for observer status from the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

The Committee also received similar requests from the Permanent Observer to the United Nations of Switzerland and from the delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations.

The Committee took note of the requests and welcomed their participation in the meetings of the Committee and its Open-ended Working Group as observers.

ANNEX III

Past and present personnel contributors to United Nations peace-keeping operations, by Regional Group

Africa

Algeria
Benin
Botswana
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Chad
Congo
Djibouti
Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Kenya
Liberia
Mali
Malawi
Morocco
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Sudan
Togo
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Asia

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Burma (now Myanmar)
Brunei Darussalam
Ceylon (now Sri Lanka)
China
Fiji
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Jordan
Kuwait
Malaysia
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Thailand
Turkey

Eastern Europe

Albania
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Lithuania
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Ukraine
Yugoslavia

Latin America and the Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Panama
Peru
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

Western Europe and others

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Canada
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

Non-member States

Switzerland